



Community Assistance and Technical Services CONNECTION

PHMSA Pipeline Safety Program

OCTOBER 2006

Mary Peters Nominated DOT Secretary



Public Awareness Program Clearinghouse

811 Update

MAOP Waivers

On September 30, 2006, Mary E. Peters was confirmed to serve as the 15th U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Peters is a lifelong transportation professional who worked her way up from Administrative Assistant to state Director of Transportation and later Federal Highway Administrator. She is well known and widely respected for her work in Arizona and Washington, DC. She currently serves as a senior executive for transportation policy at a major engineering firm. Before that, Ms. Peters served in the current Bush administration as the head of the Federal Highway Administration. As administrator, Ms. Peters led efforts to improve safety and security, reduce traffic congestion and modernize America's roads and bridges. Upon confirmation by the Senate, Ms. Peters will succeed Norman Mineta who stepped down in July of this year.

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The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 required pipeline operators to evaluate and update their existing public education programs and to submit the updated programs to PHMSA or the State pipeline safety agency that regulates intrastate pipelines. PHMSA issued a final rule on May 19, 2005 and required most operators to develop public awareness programs by June 20 of this year. PHMSA created the Public Awareness Program Clearinghouse to evaluate the programs for general compliance with the recommended practices of API RP 1162 and the PHMSA final rule. The Clearinghouse will also be used by most State partners who have chosen to participate in the Clearinghouse. As of October 26, operators had submitted 1,127 programs covering 1,501 operator IDs to the Clearinghouse.

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On March 10, 2005 the FCC approved the use of 811 as the national call-before-you-dig telephone number. A target date for full implementation has been set for April 2007. To further its rollout, the CGA is currently planning an 811 National Campaign, a Web-Based Repository, CGA Stakeholder Education, and other valuable tools and information to make this a success. More information can be found at <http://www.call811.com/>.

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In July, PHMSA issued three MAOP waivers to operators seeking approval to operate at 80% of SMYS. Those operators granted waivers were Alliance Pipeline L.P., Rockies Express Pipeline, L.L.C. and Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. The full text of the waivers can be found at <http://ops.dot.gov/regs/waiver/waiver.htm#192>.

## Distribution Integrity Management

PHMSA is completing work on a NPRM to implement Integrity Management principles for gas distribution companies. The proposed rule will be based on the conclusions reached by multi-stakeholder study groups in 2005. The report of this study is available [here](#). The rule is expected to require that distribution operators implement Integrity Management Programs containing most of the provisions in the IM rules for hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines, except for requirements to conduct assessments/inspections. The Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC) is developing implementation guidance in parallel with PHMSA's work on the proposed rule. The draft guidance is expected to be submitted to the GPTC Divisions for approval at their November meetings. The proposed rule is expected to be put into management review in early October.

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Prudhoe Bay North Slope Update

On September 22, PHMSA approved the restart of five miles of BP's East Operating Area crude oil pipeline. That line transports approximately 190,000 barrels of crude oil to the TransAlaska Pipeline and was allowed to restart operations for cleaning and in-line inspection. The pipeline was idled on August 6 after serious corrosion problems were found during DOT mandated testing on an adjacent pipeline section.

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## Low-Stress Liquid NPRM

On September 6, PHMSA issued an NPRM proposing to extend pipeline safety regulations to rural onshore hazardous liquid gathering lines and low-stress lines within a defined buffer of previously defined "unusually sensitive areas". These are non-populated areas requiring extra protection because of the presence of sole source drinking water resources, endangered species, or other ecological resources. The NPRM and comments submitted by stakeholders can be viewed [here](#) by entering Docket # 15864.

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LNG Update

According to FERC, 16 new or expanding LNG facilities have currently been approved. The bulk of the facilities are located along the Texas-Louisiana Gulf-Coast. For more detailed LNG information, link to the FERC website at <http://www.ferc.gov/industries/lng.asp>.

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## CATS Questions?

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